

EXHIBIT 24

5-22-2000 7:10AM FROM

P. 1

STATEMENT OF

MARY CURRY

Taken 28 MAY 2000 At 0226

At A/4 ROLL CALL ROOM

Present DET. CRUZ #20887

ASA LEAFBLAD, J.

This statement taken regarding the ROBBERY AND SHOOTING DEATH
of MARK MATAK which occurred on 13 MAY 2000
at C100/C114 at 4721 W CHICAGO, CHGO

I understand I have the right to remain silent and that anything I say can be used against me in a court of law. I understand that I have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him present with me during questioning, and if I cannot afford to have a lawyer one will be appointed by the court to represent me before any questioning. Understanding these rights, I wish to give a statement.

AFTER BEING ADVISED THAT ASSISTANT
STATE'S ATTORNEY JOANNA LEAFBLAD IS A
LAWYER AND A PROSECUTOR. BUT NOT MAURICE
WRIGHT'S OR TONIA LONG'S LAWYER,
MARY CURRY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
WHICH IS A SUMMARY. AND NOT WORD FOR
WORD.

MARY STATES SHE IS 52 YEARS OLD.
MARY STATES SHE LIVES AT 4653 W BRIG
WITH HER SON DAUGHTER ASHANTI WRIGHT, HER SON
MAURICE WRIGHT, AND MARY'S OTHER CHILDREN,
MARY STATES SHE'S LIVED THERE SINCE
FEBRUARY, 1999. MARY STATES SHE WENT UP
TO ELEVENTH GRADE AT WITHROW HIGH SCHOOL
IN CINCINNATI, OHIO.

ASA Joanna Leafblad

At 10:15 1 OF 4

Mary Curry

MARY STATES ON 13 MAY 2000 IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS SHE WAS HOME PLAYING CARDS WITH ASHANTI AND HER SISTER JAMAICA. MARY STATES ABOUT 1:00 - 1:30 AM, THEY HEARD A GUN SHOT WHICH SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS VERY CLOSE BY AND THEY ALL JUMPED. MARY STATES THEY WENT TO THE BASEMENT, BUT NO ONE WAS DOWN THERE. MARY STATES ABOUT 5 MINUTES LATER THEY WENT DOWN STAIRS AGAIN AND SAW JOVANE, WHO THEY ALSO CALL VANI, DOWN IN THE BASEMENT. MARY STATES VANI WAS COMING OUT OF THE BATHROOM, TAKING OFF HIS SHIRT. MARY STATES THE PERSON IN EXHIBIT 1 IS JOVANE LENO, AKA VANI. MARY STATES SHE'S KNOWN VANI FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR. MARY STATES JOVANE, ASHANTI AND JAMAICA WENT TO THE SUB PLACE ON CICERO NEAR CHIO TO BUY CIGARETTES. MARY STATES THEY WERE GONE ABOUT ONE-HALF HOUR. MARY STATES SHE WENT OUTSIDE AND SAW VANI GO UP TO XAVIER, AKA ZAY, IN A DARK-COLORED CAR AND GET IN THE CAR WITH ZAY. MARY STATES SHE, ASHANTI AND JAMAICA WENT BACK INSIDE. MARY STATES A WHILE LATER SHE WENT UPSTAIRS TO BED. MARY STATES THERE WERE TWO OTHER PEOPLE IN THE CAR. ZAY WAS DRIVING WHEN VANI GOT IN. MARY STATES, LATER SHE HEARD VANI AND ZAY TALKING TO ASHANTI ABOUT GOING AROUND THE CORNER TO WIPE FINGERPRINTS OFF THE VAN. MARY STATES ZAY WAS KNOCKING ON THE SIDE DOOR TRYING TO GET ASHANTI TO COME OUT. MARY STATES SHE TOLD ZAY TO GO HOME AND BE QUIET BECAUSE

ASA Joanna Traffick 2 of 4

Mary Curry

HE WAS MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE AND SHE HAS ELDERLY NEIGHBORS. MARY STATES SHE WENT BACK UPSTAIRS AND VANI WENT DOWNSTAIRS. MARY STATES ASHANTI CAME UPSTAIRS THE NEXT MORNING WHILE VANI WAS IN THE BASEMENT. MARY STATES ASHANTI TOLD HER THAT VANI TOLD ASHANTI THAT HE KILLED THE WHITE GUY. MARY STATES SHE WENT BACK TO SLEEP UNTIL ABOUT 11:30 AM. MARY STATES AT ABOUT 12:30 PM SHE WAS GETTING READY FOR WORK. MARY STATES SHE TOLD VANI SHE WANTED TO TALK TO HIM. MARY STATES VANI CAME TO HER OFFERING A \$100 BILL. MARY STATES SHE DIDN'T TAKE THE MONEY AND TOLD HIM TO KEEP IT BECAUSE HE WOULD NEED IT. MARY STATES SHE ASKED VANI WHY HE WOULD WANT TO SHOOT SOMEONE OVER THEIR OWN MONEY AND THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT. MARY STATES VANI STARTED CRYING AND SAID HE WAS SORRY, BUT THE MAN WOULDN'T LET THE MONEY GO SO VANI SHOT HIM. MARY STATES VANI SAID HE WAS SORRY HE KILLED THE MAN AND THEN WENT BACK DOWNSTAIRS. MARY STATES SHE FINISHED GETTING READY AND WENT TO WORK. MARY STATES BEFORE VANI WENT DOWNSTAIRS SHE TOLD HIM HE HAD TO GO BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM OR ANY TROUBLE AROUND HER CHILDREN. MARY STATES WHEN VANI AND ZAY WERE TALKING AND SHE WENT DOWNSTAIRS, SHE HAD SEEN MAURICE WITH THEM. MARY STATES SHE CALLS MAURICE "BOO-BOO" AND THAT EVERYONE CALLS HER "MAMA."

ASA Janina Beall
At- [signature]

3 OF 4

Mary Cherry

MARY STATES SHE SAW NANI AND ZAY AT HER HOME A COUPLE MORE TIMES IN THE WEEK, BUT EVERY TIME SHE SAW THEM SHE WOULD TELL THEM TO GET OUT BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT HER CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH THEIR MESS.

MARY STATES SHE WAS TREATED FINE BY THE POLICE AND ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY LEAFBLAD. MARY STATES SHE WAS GIVEN SEVEN-UP TO DRINK AND ALLOWED TO SMOKE CIGARETTES WHEN SHE WANTED. MARY STATES NO THREATS OR PROMISES WERE MADE IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS STATEMENT. MARY STATES SHE IS NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL AND MAKES THIS STATEMENT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

ASA Joanna Leafblad

Mary Curry

MARY STATES SHE SPEAKS, READS AND WRITES ENGLISH. MARY STATES SHE SHOWED THIS BY READING THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS STATEMENT OUT LOUD. MARY STATES ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY LEAFBLAD READ THE STATEMENT OUT LOUD AS SHE FOLLOWED ALONG. MARY STATES SHE WAS ALLOWED TO MAKE CORRECTIONS AS NEEDED.

ASA Joanna Leafblad

Mary Curry

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ASA Joanna Leafblad
Absolut CF 4

Mary Curry